

H-A

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/615,693

Examiner

Jack Dinh

Applicant(s)

OHKAWARA, HIROTO

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/03/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5,6,8,10 and 11.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 0405.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>0405</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Georgia Epps
Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew K. Blackburn on 04/14/05. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a detecting device adapted to detect the quantity of variation resulting from the shift of a ~~subject;~~ ring member;

a lens shifting control device adapted to shift/stop image pickup lenses in the direction of their optical axis on the basis of the result of detection by the detecting device; and

a power supply control device adapted to change the state of power supply to said detecting device;

wherein said power supply control device restrains power supply to said detecting device when said image pickup apparatus is in an automatic focusing driving, and permits power supply to said detecting device after said image pickup apparatus has been brought to an in-focus state by the automatic focusing driving.

Claim 4. (cancelled).

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Claim 6. (currently amended) A power supply control method for an image pickup apparatus having a detecting device adapted to detect the quantity of variation resulting from the shift of a ~~subject~~ ring member, and a lens shifting control device adapted to shift/stop image pickup lenses in the direction of their optical axis on the basis of the result of detection by said detecting device,

the method having a control step of changing the state of power supply to said detecting device,

wherein said control step restrains power supply to said detecting device when said image pickup apparatus is in an automatic focusing driving, and permits power supply to said detecting device after said image pickup apparatus has been brought to an in-focus state by the automatic focusing driving.

Claim 9. (cancelled).

Claim 11. (currently amended) A recording medium having stored thereon a control program for controlling power supply to an image pickup apparatus having a detecting device adapted to detect the quantity of variation resulting from the shift of a ~~subject~~, ring member, and a lens shifting control device adapted to shift/stop image pickup lenses in the direction of their optical axis on the basis of the result of detection by said detecting device, wherein:

said control program has codes of a control step of changing the state of power supply to said detecting device,

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wherein said control step restrains power supply to said detecting device when said image pickup apparatus is in an automatic focusing driving, and permits power supply to said detecting device after said image pickup apparatus has been brought to an in-focus state by the automatic focusing driving.

Drawings

2. Figures 6-9 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11 are allowed in light of the Applicant's arguments and amendment. The following is a statement of the examiner's reasons for allowance. The present application relates to an image pickup apparatus having an inner focusing type or some other lens system and a power supply control method therefor. Regarding claim 1, the prior art fails to disclose that the power supply control device restrains power supply to the detecting device when the image pickup apparatus is in an automatic focusing driving, and permits power supply to the detecting device after the image pickup apparatus has been brought to an in-focus state by

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the automatic focusing driving. Independent claim 6 is directed to a power supply control method and independent claim 11 is directed to a power supply control program for a recording medium, both of which include the novel limitations as described above. The claimed invention is therefore considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and non-obvious over prior art.

4. The prior art taken either singly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claims, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103 would be improper. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Information/Remarks


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 605-0744. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T (8:30 AM - 6:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y Epps can be reached on (703) 308-4883. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jack Dinh


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